

NINDS Standard Operating Procedure

NINDS SOP 45

SOP Title: Initiating Emergency Medical Services to
Patients undergoing MRI Procedures within the NMR
Center

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to elucidate the process for initiating emergency medical services to patients undergoing MRI procedures within the NIH MRI Research (NMR) Center.

2. POLICY

Emergency medical services provided to patients, employees, and visitors in the NIH Clinical Center (CC) are under the direction of the Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Committee Chair, or designee.

3. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Witness to the 'Code Blue'

When an actual or potential medical emergency occurs anywhere in the CC, individuals at the scene should administer first aid or Basic Life Support (BLS) as indicated and initiate the procedure for calling a "Code Blue." Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are available throughout the CC.

The NIH operator is dialed and a "Code Blue" is requested, at which time the Code Team is deployed to the scene.

3.2 Members of the Code Team

The Code Team consists of a minimum of two physicians, two critical care nurses, and one respiratory therapist. Code Team members maintain current American Heart Association certification for BLS and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and provide care according to these guidelines.

3.3 NIH NMR Center Team Response

Within the NMR Center, MRI technicians, supporting staff or advanced practice providers will move a patient, if within the magnetic field environment, outside of the at-risk space for the Code Blue Team. At no time will the Code Blue Team enter the magnetic field environment.

4. PROCEDURES

4.1 NIH NMR Center Safety Training

All investigators and medical professionals conducting research studies in the NMR Center are required to attend the NMR Center NMR Safety Training Course, the NMR Emergency Drill training, Universal Precautions training and maintain a current American Heart Association certification for BLS.

4.2 General NIH NMR Center Information:

1. AED is located on the wall next to Room B1D/69 in the main NMR Center hallway.
2. ACLS Code Cart/with Defibrillator, is stored in NMR Center Room B1D/304; access code: **1304***.
3. Anaphylaxis medication boxes are located in all the MRI control rooms.
4. ACLS drugs and additional medications are available in the ACLS code cart drug tray.
5. NIH Hospital Codes:
 - a. 911: Fire, Security, Hazardous material, or odor
 - b. 111: Medical Code Blue
 - c. 112: Stat Overhead page
 - d. 108: Engineering

Dialing **301-496-9911** from a cell phone will directly access the NIH Emergency Dispatch Center.

4.3 Procedure: Initiating a “Code Blue” to NMR Center

The study Investigator, technologist, and/or medical professional will:

1. Assess the patient experiencing clinical distress in the MRI scanner.
2. Call out for assistance from individuals within voice communication, by activating the patient call system, and/or call the NMR Center overhead paging system, (301) 480-0778, if additional assistance is needed.
3. **Remove the patient from the MRI scan room, using the dockable patient table or MRI safe stretcher (located within the scan room),** and immediately close the MRI scan door. Under no circumstance can the patient be treated in the MR scan room. Move the patient to the NMR center main hallway.
4. Activate the Emergency Code Blue call (**Dialing 111 at NIH**). Notify the page operator of the location (**B1/NMR Center**), and if it is a child or adult. If a second person is present, have them call the code while subject is being removed from the MRI room.
5. Ask second person to retrieve the NMR Center Code Cart (**Room B1D/304; access code: 1304***).
 - a. **Of Note:** For 11.7T MR studies and Cardiac MR stress studies, the code cart will be moved to the main NMR hallway, across from room B1D/713 and will remain there until studies are completed.

6. Ask second person to meet and direct the code team at the NMR Center main door.
7. Administer first aid or basic life support as indicated, until code team arrives.
8. Code team will respond with additional equipment that might be needed to stabilize the individual and the code team lead will determine the final disposition of the patient.

5. REFERENCES

5.1 Emergency Medical Services – NIH CC M95-1 (rev.)

The resource may be accessed from the following site:

<http://cc-internal.cc.nih.gov/policies/PDF/M95-1.pdf>

5.2 Guidelines for Human MRI Studies- NMR Research Facility

The resource may be accessed from the following site:

https://intranet.nmrf.nih.gov/human_studies.htm

5.3 NMR Center Safety Training

The resource may be accessed from the following site:

[https://NMRF/MIF - Safety Training \(nih.gov\).](https://NMRF/MIF - Safety Training (nih.gov))